

#### 4.4.3 RULES

##### SECTION .0100 – SHELLFISH GENERAL

###### 15A NCAC 03K .0101 PROHIBITED SHELLFISH AREAS/ACTIVITIES

(a) It is unlawful to possess, sell, or take oysters, clams or mussels from areas which have been designated as prohibited (polluted) by proclamation by the Fisheries Director except as provided in 15A NCAC 03K .0103, .0104, .0107, and .0401. The Fisheries Director shall issue such proclamations upon notice by the Division of Environmental Health that duly adopted criteria for approved shellfish harvest areas have not been met. The Fisheries Director may reopen any such closed area upon notification from the Division of Environmental Health that duly adopted criteria for approved shellfish harvest areas have been met. Copies of these proclamations and maps of these areas are available upon request at the Division of Marine Fisheries, 3441 Arendell St., Morehead City, NC 28557; (252) 726-7021.

(b) The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, close areas to the taking of oysters, clams, scallops and mussels in order to protect the shellfish populations for management purposes or for public health purposes not specified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) It is unlawful to possess or sell oysters, clams, or mussels taken from polluted waters outside North Carolina.

(d) It is unlawful to possess or sell oysters, clams, or mussels taken from the waters of North Carolina except as provided in G. S. 113-169.2 (i) without a harvest tag affixed to each container of oysters, clams or mussels. Harvest tags shall be affixed by the harvester and shall meet the following criteria:

- 1) Tags shall be identified as harvest tags. They shall be durable for at least 90 days, water resistant, and a minimum of two and five-eighths inches by five and one-fourth inches in size.
- (2) Tags shall be securely fastened to the outside of each container in which shellstock is transported. Bulk shipments in one container and from the same source may have one tag with all required information attached. Harvesters who are also certified shellfish dealers may use only their dealers tag if it contains the required information. The required information shall be included on all lots of shellfish subdivided or combined into market grades or market quantities by a harvester or a certified shellfish dealer.
- (3) Tags shall contain legible information arranged in the specific order as follows:
  - (A) The harvester's name, address and shellfish license or standard or retired standard commercial fishing license with shellfish endorsement number.
  - (B) The date of harvest.
  - (C) The most precise description of the harvest location as is practicable (e.g., Long Bay, Rose Bay) that can be easily located by maps and charts.
  - (D) Type and quantity of shellfish.